

NEWS

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The bonds of foster care result in adoption for over 100 children

Over 100 children will soon be celebrating the gift of a new last name as they transition from foster care to a permanent, loving family. In honor of National Adoption Month, San Bernardino County will be holding its annual Adoption Finalization Event at 12:15 p.m. on November 5, 2004, at the Ontario Convention Center.

The Department of Children's Services facilitates more than 500 adoptions every year. "Adoption is clearly the best possible outcome when a child's birth parents are not an option," said Department of Children's Services Director Cathy Cimbalo. "Finding stability and permanence for the children in the foster care system is one of the department's most important goals. The Adoption Finalization Event celebrates both the children and their adoptive families as they legally become a family. The true goal is met long before, when they become a family in their hearts. Although the children benefit greatly from having a permanent family, it is usually the adoptive parents who believe they have received the greatest gift."

One such couple will be going from zero to three children. During the event, they will be adopting three siblings, ages three, five and eight years, including one who suffers from microcephaly (below normal development of the head).

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Another couple is adopting a 5-year old child who had left their foster care when they were uncertain they could care for him. Born to a teenage mother, the child was only 1 ½ pounds at birth. He is legally blind and suffers from cerebral palsy. But shortly after leaving their home and despite his special needs, this foster family realized they had already formed a loving bond and wanted him to be a permanent member of their family.

All of the children, who have been living with their prospective adoptive parents for some time, will be formally adopted in ceremonies performed by Presiding Judge A. Rex Victor, Judge Douglas Gericke, Judge Raymond Van Stockum, Judge Margaret Powers and Judge Keith Davis.

Following the event, the media will have an opportunity to interview some of the new families, judges and other participants.